

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 12197061/CJC	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. <b>PCT/AU2003/001653</b>	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 11 December 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 12 December 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>Int. Cl. 7 B65D 81/02, 85/82, 25/54, B2SJ 21/02, A62B 29/00</b>		
Applicant <b>ROBERTS, Timothy et al</b>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheet(s).
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</li> <li>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>

Date of submission of the demand <b>6 July 2004</b>	Date of completion of the report <b>9 November 2004</b>
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU <b>AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929</b>	Authorized Officer  <b>JAGDISH WABLE</b> Telephone No. (02) 6283 2638

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001653

**I. Basis of the report****1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\***

- the international application as originally filed.
- the description, pages 1-12, as originally filed,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages , received on with the letter of
- the claims, pages , as originally filed,  
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages 13-15, received on 15 October 2004 with the letter of 12 October 2004
- the drawings, pages 1/10-10/10, as originally filed,  
pages , filed with the demand,  
pages , received on with the letter of
- the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages , as originally filed  
pages , filed with the demand  
pages , received on with the letter of

**2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.**

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

**3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:**

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

**4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:**

- the description, pages
- the claims, Nos.
- the drawings, sheets/fig.

**5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\***

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001653

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-20	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-20	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-20	YES
	Claims	NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

D1-US 20020105251 A1 (abstract and figure 3)

D2-DE 2922321 A1 (abstract and figure 1)

D3 GB 2306376 A (abstract and figure 1)

D4-BE 869738 A (abstract and figure 1)

D5-FR 2254409 A (abstract and figure 1)

All the documents disclose a sealed inspection unit for a potentially dangerous object including at least one glove member allowing a user external to the unit to manipulate the object within the unit. They fail to disclose, individually or in combination, a rigid transportation unit adapted to wholly receive the inspection unit and provide a further sealed environment containing the inspection unit. Therefore the claimed invention is considered to be novel, involves an inventive step and is industrially applicable.

## The claims:

1. Apparatus for the contained inspection and possible transportation of a potentially dangerous object, the apparatus comprising:

5 an inspection unit, the inspection unit including at least a first section and a second section able to open to receive the object and then close to provide a sealed airtight environment for manual inspection of the object, the first section and the second section being substantially rigid, the inspection unit also including at least one glove member allowing a user external to the sealed environment of  
10 the closed inspection unit to manipulate the object within the closed inspection unit; and,

15 a transportation unit, the transportation unit including at least a first section and a second section able to open to wholly receive the inspection unit and then close to provide a further sealed airtight environment containing the inspection unit, the first section and the second section of the transportation unit being substantially rigid.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the  
20 inspection unit is substantially transparent.

3. The apparatus as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein at least a portion of a body section or a base section of the inspection unit is opaque, preferably of a dark colour.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 3, wherein the object is an envelope, mail, package, parcel, letter or the like.

5. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 4, wherein the first  
30 section and the second section of the inspection unit are adapted to be clamped or latched together.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first section and the second section of the inspection unit are hinged together.

7. The apparatus as claimed in either claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the first section of the inspection unit is a lid section and the second section of the inspection unit is a body section or a base section.

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8. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the transportation unit can generally be lifted and moved by a single person..

9. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 8, wherein the user  
10 can visually inspect the object in the inspection unit.

10. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 9, wherein two glove members are provided.

15 11. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 10, wherein the first section and the second section of the transportation unit are adapted to be clamped together.

20 12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first section and the second section of the transportation unit are hinged together.

13. The apparatus as claimed in either claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the first section of the transportation unit is a lid section and the second section of the transportation unit is a body section or a base section.

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14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the lid section and the body section or base section of the transportation unit are adapted to be press-sealed together.

30 15. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 14, wherein the transportation unit is resilient against external forces and shocks.

16. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 15, wherein the inspection unit also includes integrated magnifying means.

17. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 16, wherein the transportation unit includes padding or shock absorbing material.
- 5 18. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 17, wherein closure of the transportation unit securely holds the inspection unit placed therein.
19. Device for the contained inspection and safe transportation for further examination, if required, of received mail, the device comprising:
- 10 a substantially rigid inspection unit adapted to provide a sealed airtight environment, the inspection unit allowing a user to visually inspect received mail placed in the inspection unit, the inspection unit also including one or more glove members allowing the user to manipulate the mail within the inspection unit; and,
- 15 a substantially rigid transportation unit adapted to wholly receive and secure the inspection unit after user inspection of the mail and to provide a further sealed airtight environment and physical protection for the inspection unit during transportation.
20. The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the inspection unit and the transportation unit are each formed of substantially two distinct sections and additionally provided with one or more clamps to seal the units.